



Seattle: soak it up!

Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau

520 Pike Street, Suite 1300 Seattle WA 98101 telephone: 206-461-5800 fax: 206-461-5879

Seattle's Brand Promise

Seattle is the Pacific Northwest: a state of mind, a way of living and a portal to the future. Our guests delight over our breathtaking beauty, abundant recreation, thriving city center, technological innovation and wonderfully polite people.

We are dedicated to providing an exceptional visitor experience that stimulates and nourishes the mind, body and spirit; creates unforgettable memories, inspires success; and energizes and refreshes.

Share this Promise with your clients, Ask Us How!

For the latest News & Events Call Us!

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**Check out our website for
NEW online Calendar of Events!
www.seeseattle.org**

Hub and Spoke Options

Seattle is an ideal 'hub' for your tours.

"Spoke" trips can be done within a day's drive of Seattle:

- ☞ East King County Loop Tours
- ☞ Snohomish County
- ☞ Whidbey Island
- ☞ Bellingham / Whatcom County
- ☞ Leavenworth (in the Cascades)
- ☞ NW Country - East of Seattle & over Snoqualmie Pass
- ☞ Tacoma-Pierce County
- ☞ Kitsap Peninsula
- ☞ Mt. Rainier National Park
- ☞ Olympic National Park / Olympic Peninsula
- ☞ Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument
- ☞ San Juan Islands
- ☞ Vancouver or Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

~ Destination ~ Highlights

**Pioneer Square
Safeco Field
Experience Music Project
Chinatown International District
Waterfront & Seattle Aquarium
Pike Place Market
Woodland Park Zoo
Seattle Center and Space Needle
Golfing, Bicycling, Fishing
Whale-Watching
Lunch and Dinner Cruises
Gardens and Parks
Skiing, Snowboarding, Kayaking
Museums and Galleries
Wineries & Breweries**

Theme Ideas

Adventure – Eagle watching float trips, guided nature walks, whitewater rafting, and sea kayaking are just the beginning.

Arts and Cul ture – American Style magazine cites Seattle as one of the top 5 cultural destinations in the USA. From glass art, galleries, museums and sculpture to dance, opera, symphonies, theatre and more, there is something for everyone.

Aviation – Visit the Boeing airplane production facility and visit the Museum of Flight to see where Boeing began. See the original Air Force One and more.

Cruising – Take a refreshing cruise to Alaska, British Columbia, or places around the Puget Sound. Enjoy brief escapes with lunch or dinner cruises, or book your own special charter.

Gardens – Options are endless. Explore arboretums and botanical gardens, tulip fields and roses, rhododendrons and bonsai collections, lilacs and lavender, public gardens or private estates. Add a garden school, Master Gardener demos, or hands-on classes.

Gl ASS – Seattle has become a Mecca for glass artists from across the country and around the world. Visit one the many hot shops or glassblowing studios. In June 2002, visit the new Museum of Glass.

National Parks – Mt. Rainier, Olympic National Park, and the North Cascades National Park are all within a half-day's drive of Seattle.

Outdoor Recreation – Golf, kayaking, hiking, biking, skiing, snowboarding, and llama trekking are just a few of the options available.

Shopping – Discount malls to high fashion. Many malls provide special greetings and discount books for groups. Seattle is home to Nordstrom, Eddie Bauer, and REI to name a few.

Two Nation Vacation – Visit Victoria, located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, by ferry, high-speed catamaran or seaplane. Then check out Vancouver by Amtrak, air or seaplane, bus, or car.

Whal e Watching – With three resident pods of orca whales in the San Juan Islands, excursions are available from many departure points on the mainland.

Wineries – Washington State is the 2nd largest producer of premium wine in the USA, and many of the tours and tastings are free!

For even more theme ideas and suggestions, see the "Tour Itineraries" portion of this disk, then contact the Tourism Development Division of Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Marketing Aids Availabl e

Services

- œ Organization, sponsorship and assistance for inbound fam tours, site inspections, and itinerary development.
- œ Lead Distribution
- œ Sample Itineraries
- œ Promotional copy on Seattle/King County
- œ Technical Tour Information

Publ ications

- œ Professional Travel Planners Guide
- œ Visitors Guide
- œ Lodging Guide
- œ Dining Guide
- œ Meeting Planners Guide
- œ Multi Ethnic Guide
- œ TourMap
- œ Lure Brochures
- œ Attractions Brochures

Visual Material s

- œ Color Slides
 - also available in "jpeg"
 - also available in CD Rom
- œ Posters
 - Collage
 - Great Outdoors
 - Skyline
- œ "Welcome to Seattle" video
 - five & ten minute versions



READ ON...

For More Sample Itineraries and Theme Ideas

The following is an excerpt from our Professional Tour Planning Guide. To receive the complete Guide or for assistance in developing your programs, please contact:

**Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau
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Tour Itineraries

~
*Seattleites adore Seattle,
and now the world beyond
is equally enchanted. It's
wired, wonderful, and like
no place else on Earth. Now
is the time to pay a visit.*

—Steven R. Lorton,
Sunset Magazine

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The following itinerary suggestions are presented as starting points for developing your travel programs to Seattle and Washington State. Many options are available. Please contact the professional Tourism Development staff for assistance in developing a customized program that will suit the needs of your clients. The **FI** symbol identifies areas where we can provide additional information.

Seattle Sampler — Introductory Tour

Day 1 - Arrive Seattle

After your arrival in Seattle, plan to spend the afternoon sightseeing. Refer to half-day options on these pages; many are downtown. In the evening, sample our renowned Pacific Northwest cuisine at one of Seattle's excellent restaurants.

Day 2

Spend the morning on a three-hour Seattle City Tour. Discover the many facets of the Emerald City as you tour the downtown business and shopping district, historic **Pioneer Square**, and the vibrant **China-town-International District**. Drive along the shores of Lake Washington and through the 200-acre **University of Washington Arboretum**. Visit the **Hiram M. Chittenden Government Locks** and fish ladder, which connect our many freshwater lakes to the saltwater Puget Sound and allow salmon to migrate upstream. Return to downtown Seattle via **Magnolia and Queen Anne**, two areas that offer spectacular views of Seattle, Mt. Rainier, Puget Sound, and the Olympic Mountains. Numerous companies offer local sightseeing tours; refer to the Sightseeing Tours section in the Attractions & Activities chapter of this guide.



FAR LEFT: Two Seattle icons—Experience Music Project looms in front of the Space Needle, Lara Swimmer. LEFT: Pioneer Square totem reflects Pacific Northwest Native heritage, Dave Curran, www.davecurranimages.com. BELOW: Diners enjoy great weather and great views at Seattle's Pier 56 on the waterfront, George White.

Lunch can be independent or organized in one of our many fine restaurants in Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, Chinatown-International District, Seattle Center, or the bustling Seattle downtown or waterfront.

After lunch, stroll above and below ground in Seattle's old Pioneer Square, a 30-block National Historic District. Hear tales of the colorful characters who shaped Seattle's rough and tumble history on the 1½-hour **Underground Tour**. Stroll tree-lined streets bordered by graceful old buildings and antique street lamps. Explore more than 100 art galleries, antique shops, boutiques and specialty stores.

Spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring Seattle's world-famous **Pike Place Market**, the oldest continually-operating farmers market in America. More than 300 shops and restaurants, 100 farmers, 150 craftspeople—and 50 street performers—call Pike Place Market home.

A **Tillicum Village** excursion departs by chartered vessel from Seattle's Central Waterfront, Piers 55/56. Cruising to Blake Island State Park, the site of Tillicum's authentically reproduced longhouse, you'll enjoy a narrated tour and spectacular views. A member of Tillicum's Native American staff greets you upon arrival, serving an appetizer of steamed clams and nectar. Once inside, you'll see whole salmon baking in the traditional manner on cedar stakes around an alder fire. After a salmon feast, the stage show "Dance on the Wind" brings to life the myth and magic of Native American legends. There's plenty of time left on this

four-hour adventure to explore forested trails and beaches. Open year round, group rates available.

For a sit-down, fine dining on-the-water experience, make dinner (or lunch) reservations on the "**Royal Argosy**," a cooperative effort of Argosy Cruises and Consolidated Restaurants. Christened in 1999, this 180-foot (55 meter) ship offers prepared-to-order regional cuisine, elegant décor and ever-changing views of Puget Sound.

Choose **Waterways Cruises** for a different on-water dining experience, departing from the south shore of Lake Union. Over 100 dining, entertainment, and special event cruises are open to the public in their Signature Dining Cruise series. Most of their cruises allow you to enjoy the fresh waters of Lake Union and Lake Washington. All of the water excursions and cruises offer group rates and private charters are available.

For a change of pace, take a **Spirit of Washington Dinner Train** excursion, which glides along the eastern shore of Lake Washington while you enjoy gourmet cuisine and award-winning wines. The 44-mile (70 km) roundtrip also includes a one-hour stop at a winery in Woodinville, with time to enjoy a tour and tasting.

Day 3 - Depart Seattle

Half-Day Tours and Excursions

Seattle offers many tours and excursions that can be tailored in both length and interest to

your group, from art and history to celebrity to agriculture and gardens and much more. Or, focus on one geographical area of Seattle-King County:

Pioneer Square

First settled in 1856, Seattle is a young city, but one with a vibrant history. Pioneer Square, site of America's original "Skid Road" and Seattle's oldest and most famous neighborhood, is now a 30-block National Historic District blending past and present legend and lore. Points of interest include:

■ **Underground Tour:** Stroll above and below Seattle, a city literally rebuilt atop its own ruins, with non-stop and witty historical commentary about the unique events and characters that shaped our city. Group rates available.

■ **Smith Tower Observation Deck:** Vintage 1914 elevators (with human operators) whisk you from the Grand Lobby to the 35th floor Chinese Room and Observation Deck of Seattle's first skyscraper. "The grandest view in town for over 85 years." Group and senior rates available.

■ **Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park:** This park chronicles the impact of the Alaska Gold Rush; while it comprises the country's smallest historic park, only half of



it is located here in Seattle—the other half is located in Skagway, Alaska.

■ **Safeco Field:** The grand new Mariners baseball stadium debuted on July 15, 1999, an open-air field with a retractable roof, real grass, and plenty of new art and amenities for fans. Tours and group rates available.

■ **NEW!! Seahawk Stadium** will open for the 2002 football season. The 67,000-seat stadium offers 82 luxury suites and club seating for 7,000. The north entryway is designed as a 12-story tower which will have the scoreboard at the top while preserving views of downtown Seattle.

Chinatown-International District

Representation by all the nationalities of Asia helps to make this neighborhood a favorite destination for groups. Just south and east of Pioneer Square, the area is compact and ideal for walking tours:

■ **Chinatown Discovery Tours:** Share in the fascinating discoveries of a fortune cookie factory, an herb dispensary, a 10,000-character Chinese printing press, and more. Tour options and group rates available.

■ **Uwajimaya:** The largest Asian grocery and gift market in the Pacific Northwest offers products from the Asia Pacific region and a truly unique shopping/dining experience.

Waterfront

From Pike Place Market, descend the Pike Street Hillclimb stairs to Pier 59. (Charter bus loading zones are available at nearby Pier 56.) Alaskan Way, named for all the prospectors who fled Seattle for Alaska during Gold Rush days, offers many tour and shopping opportunities including:

■ **The Seattle Aquarium:** Resting on the doorstep of one of the richest and most diverse aquatic habitats on Earth, the aquarium's world-class exhibits and unique underwater viewing dome take you close up to the wonders of Puget Sound marine life. Group rates available.

■ **Seattle IMAX Dome Theater:** The IMAX screen features "The Eruption of Mt. St. Helens," a stunning film about Washington's resident volcano, along with other exciting shows on a rotating basis. Group rates available.

■ **Argosy Cruises:** The American Automobile Association calls Argosy's one-hour harbor cruise "the most outstanding tour of

its kind in the nation." Take the 2½-hour Locks Cruise, the one-hour Harbor Cruise, the 1½-hour or two-hour Lake Cruise or the "Royal Argosy" dinner cruise (see Introductory Tour). Group rates available.

■ **Tillicum Village Excursions:** (See Introductory Tour.) Group rates available.

Boeing Aircraft Assembly Plant/ Everett Tour Center

Visit the world's largest building and center for one of the most modern and busiest aircraft manufacturing facilities in the world. This is the Boeing 747 and 767 assembly plant where Boeing workers can fit eight 747s and eight 767s in this enormous final assembly factory at the same time! Group rates available. Sorry, no children under 4'2" (127 cm) permitted. Contact us for the latest details on the Boeing Tour. [f](#)

Museum of Flight

The Museum of Flight's six-story steel and glass Great Gallery offers a unique perspec-

tive on aviation history, with 20 full-sized airplanes "flying" from the ceiling. See everything from a replica of the Wright Brothers' original glider to the A-12 Blackbird, the world's fastest airplane, and Air Force One, used by presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. And visit Boeing's original Red Barn for a peek into the dawn of aviation. Gift shop and restaurant on premises. Group rates available.

Seattle Center

This 74-acre (30-hectare) urban park, a legacy of the 1962 World's Fair, is the site of many of Seattle's best-known and best-loved public events, including the Northwest Folklife Festival, the "Bite of Seattle," and the Bumbershoot music and arts festival. Seattle Center is accessible by a 90-second monorail ride from downtown, and offers plenty of coach parking as well. Sites on the grounds include:

■ **Experience Music Project:** This unconventional structure, which opened in June





FAR LEFT: Artfully displayed produce delights the eye as well as the palate at Seattle's Pike Place Market, George White. LEFT: Seattle view from Bainbridge Island, just a 30-minute ferry ride away, Dave Curran.

2000, houses an interactive array of exhibits and technology tracing the evolution of American music. Group rates available.

■ **The Space Needle:** 605 feet (184 meters) high, with two outstanding revolving restaurants and an observation deck. At the 100-foot (30-meter) level, three banquet rooms are available for private gatherings. Group rates available for observation deck and meals.

■ **Pacific Science Center:** Virtual reality, laser light shows, hands-on science, and the Boeing IMAX Theater with a six-story screen, 12,000 watts of digital sound, and 3D capability. Also look for the Tropical Butterfly House and Insect Village in the adjacent Ackerley Family Exhibit Gallery. Group rates available.

■ **Center House:** Located at the heart of Seattle Center, featuring international foods and a wide array of shops.

Also on the grounds are the Northwest Craft Center Gallery, the Opera House (home to Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera, but currently closed for renovation through 2002 with productions scheduled at the adjacent Mercer Arena), Seattle Rep (at the Bagley Wright Theater), the Intiman Theatre Company (at Seattle Center Playhouse), the Evergreen Theatre Conservatory, the Children's Museum, the Charlotte Martin Theatre (children's productions), KeyArena, home of the Seattle SuperSonics (NBA basketball), the Seattle Thunderbirds (WHA hockey), and the Seattle Storm (NBA women's basketball).

Pike Place Market

No trip to the Emerald City is complete without visiting Pike Place Market (see Introductory Tour). The Market is a colorful and bustling community in itself where old-fashioned charm and tradition have thrived for more than 90 years. Many market fish purveyors will pack fresh fish to go, to last 48 hours without refrigeration. Charter motorcoach parking available.

Walking Tours

Many local guide companies offer excellent walking tours focusing on Seattle architecture and history, Pike Place Market, public art, Pioneer Square, shopping, and more. Most offer custom tours designed for the specific interests of your group. Please refer to "Walking Tours" in the Attractions & Activities section of this guide.

Woodland Park Zoo

Ranked one of the world's outstanding zoos, Woodland Park Zoo features both North-

west and exotic animals in naturalistic environments. Don't miss the Tropical Rain Forest, the Asian Elephant Forest, the African Savanna, the Northern Trail, and the Trail of Vines. Here you'll find a family group of orangutans in a wild and wonderful environment with both indoor and outdoor spaces for observation. Group rates available.

Hub and Spoke Tours — Options Beyond Seattle

Seattle is an ideal base for "Hub and Spoke" tours. Instead of moving hotels each day, why not make Seattle your "hub" and do "spoke" day-trips to some of the many destinations of Western Washington and the Pacific Northwest? Or combine a series of these places into an extended multi-day itinerary. The choices are endless. Read on...

Full Day Tours — North

■ **Snohomish County:** Between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains and only 12 miles (19 km) north of downtown Seattle, Snohomish County is a unique day tour offering miles of shoreline, peaceful lakes and streams, and natural scenic beauty. Seek outdoor adventure such as guided river float trips, whale watching excursions, and hot air ballooning, or see the panoramic beauty from the comfort of a motorcoach.

Enjoy antique and specialty craft shops in the historic village of Snohomish. On the National Historic Register for both its

New For 2002 — Value Added Options

CityPass offers a 50% discount off admission to six of Seattle's most popular attractions:

Space Needle
Pacific Science Center
Museum of Flight
Argosy Cruises Harbor Tour
The Seattle Aquarium
Woodland Park Zoo

■ **Puget Sound Attractions Council:** The Seattle Favorite Attractions brochure offers many reduced rate coupons.

■ **Shopping:** Many malls provide complimentary coupons for your clients.

For any of the above Value Added Options please contact us. ☎

business and residential districts, the historic village's 450 antique dealers provide a glimpse into the past with cherished collectibles and antiques. Other attractions include fine dining at waterfront cafes and restaurants, shopping at Alderwood Mall or Everett Mall, micro-breweries, the Tulalip Casino and a wide variety of performing and visual arts.

Technical tours include the USS Abraham Lincoln, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at Naval Station Everett, the Boeing 747 Assembly Plant, Buse timber mill, US Marine Corporation manufacturing facility and others. Agricultural tours abound in the fertile Snohomish Valley. 📍

■ Skagit Lake and Dam Tours, Seattle City

Light: The 4-hour tour begins at the Skagit Tour Center in Diablo, Washington, 140 miles (224 km) from Seattle, where visitors receive an orientation and history lesson. Then, ride up the famous incline railroad, originally used to haul equipment and supplies up Sourdough Mountain during construction. Cruise across Diablo Lake aboard the Cascadian to Ross Dam and tour the powerhouse, home of enormous energy-producing turbines. Walking shoes required. Group rates and senior discounts available. (This is a seasonal operation.)

■ Bellingham and Whatcom County:

Ninety miles (144 km) north of Seattle is the city of Bellingham in the heart of Whatcom County. Just south of the Canadian border, this region stretches from the saltwater of the Georgia Strait to the peak of the Cascades with Mount Baker at 10,778 feet (3,240 meters) dominating the skyline. The Bellingham cruise terminal is one of the departure points for excursions to the San Juan Islands and home to the southern terminus of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Take time to explore and shop historic Fairhaven, the original 1890s district of the city. Whatcom County also offers opportunities to explore other communities including Lynden, Birch Bay and Blaine.

■ **Whidbey Island:** The longest island in the continental U.S., Whidbey comprises 208 square miles and is 45 miles (72 km) long. Take the Washington State Ferry from Mukilteo, 29 miles (46 km) north of Seattle.

The 20-minute ride will take you to the town of Clinton on Whidbey Island. Catch spectacular views of Saratoga Passage, nearby Camano Island, and the Cascade Mountain Range. Continue to Langley, "Village by the Sea," founded in 1880 and featuring many interesting antique shops and restaurants.



Heading north you'll pass the town of Freeland, nestled on Holmes Harbor on your way to Greenbank Farms, a 525-acre (210-hectare) farm including more than 100 acres (40 hectares) of loganberries. Sample their loganberry, raspberry and rhubarb wines. Onward—north to Coupeville, the "City of Sea Captains," and site of the nation's first and largest historical preservation district. Nearby is Fort Casey State Park, an old Army post with marvelous views to the Olympic Peninsula and a wind-washed beach for strolling. Visit the Rhododendron State Park and the State Game Farm.

For a perfect lunch stop, the historic Captain Whidbey Inn is just outside Coupeville. Continue north through Oak Harbor to Deception Pass, the highest point on Whidbey Island. Here you'll be greeted with breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountain Range to the west, the Cascades to the east, and the lush Skagit Valley ... where so many tulips bloom every year they are actually exported to Holland!

Continue to La Conner, a beautiful historic town filled with art galleries and fascinating shops. This is an ideal spot for an

afternoon coffee break. From La Conner, follow I-5 south, heading for Seattle.

■ **San Juan Islands:** There are many ways to enjoy the San Juan Islands, including regularly scheduled year-round ferry service, charter boat excursions, airplane and seaplane charters, auto or motorcoach. Plan to indulge your recreational and naturalist instincts as you discover their charms, whether whale watching, beachcombing, kayak touring, or just relaxing. One driving option is to take I-5 to Anacortes, 85 miles (136 km) north of Seattle, and board a Washington State Ferry for one or all of the San Juan Islands stops. All the islands offer a myriad of opportunities for bicycling, kayaking, canoeing, sailing, hiking and naturalist-guided tours. Wildlife abounds—look for bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons, cormorants, tufted puffins, Dalls porpoises, harbor seals and sea lions, in addition to the always-popular orca whales.

On **San Juan Island** you will find the nation's first official whale-watching park, Lime Kiln Park, offering the chance to search for orca and minke whales inhabiting the region. The Whale Museum in Friday Harbor focuses on the whale and its preservation. Friday Harbor is the commercial center of the islands, and San Juan Island the largest of the 172-island archipelago. On **Orcas Island** is the tallest mountain in the island chain, Mount Constitution in Moran State Park, offering a 360-degree view of the mountains and two islands including Vancouver Island—all the way to Mt. Rainier. Rosario Resort, site of the spectacular Moran Mansion and listed on the National Register of Historical Places, is a delightful stop on a tour of the island.

Lopez Island retains a bucolic, pastoral ambience and an agricultural environment. It is a popular bicycling destination because of its long, flat country roads. **Shaw Island's** ferry landing has been "manned" by members of a local order of nuns—every day, rain or shine, for 15 years. The island has no public amenities, and limited camping and picnicking facilities.

■ **Leavenworth:** This charming Bavarian village is located 130 miles (208 km) northeast of Seattle in the Cascade Range. Heading north from Seattle you will pass



Sultan, Startup and Skykomish, all communities with historic roots in the gold rush or logging days. Driving toward Stevens Pass, majestic Mt. Index dominates the view, and on the east side of the pass Tumwater Canyon is a delight in all seasons, filled with whitewater during spring runoff and ablaze with color in the fall.

Set against the foothills of the Cascades, Leavenworth offers something for everyone from festivals to hiking, climbing, river rafting, cross-country and downhill skiing, and camping. The village features Old World architecture, a variety of fine eating establishments, unique specialty shops and galleries.

Known for its year-round festivals, Leavenworth appeals to visitors of all ages. In winter there is IceFest, a winter play day complete with fireworks, Northwest dogpull championships, and Fasching, a Bavarian event. Spring brings Maifest with its bounty of flowers, entertainment, colorful dancing and Riverfest, an educational river play day. Summer brings Kinderfest, dedicated to children; Accordion Fest with over 100 accordion players in a week of music and concerts; and summer theater, with live outdoor productions. With autumn comes

the quilt show, Salmon Fest, Autumn Leaf Festival and Oktoberfest. As the village heads into winter Christkindlemarkt, an open-air market, begins the holidays. Following Thanksgiving, the village is decked out like a winter fairy tale with more than 100,000 lights. Visitors return year after year for the Christmas Lighting Festival, three Saturdays in December, along with concerts and plays.

■ **Two Nation Vacation—Victoria and Vancouver:** Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia offer excellent options to combine with Seattle and Washington State to create the perfect “Two Nation Vacation.” Both are a fusion of many cultures: European, Asian and Native aboriginal. You can see their many faces in the museums, art galleries, shop windows, markets and sidewalk cafes. Both offer a wide variety of fresh cuisine. Both are renowned for their parks and gardens as well as their flourishing visual and performing arts venues. Hiking, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving, cycling, caving, birdwatching, and golf are some of the outdoor activities to enjoy.

The city of **Vancouver** is just a short 3-hour drive north from Seattle. It’s the largest

LEFT: Kayakers discover some of the best views in the San Juan Islands, northwest of Seattle, John Bolivar. ABOVE: Lighthouse at Seattle’s Discovery Park, Gary Moogk.

“On a warm day, my wife and I were looking for a place to eat. ‘Is it cool?’ my wife asked the girl at the desk about a promising restaurant. ‘Of course,’ the girl replied. ‘In Seattle, everywhere is cool.’
Cool city, Seattle.”

—George Perry,
London Sunday Times

RIGHT: The Salish Lodge perches above Snoqualmie Falls, just east of Seattle off Interstate 90, George White.

FAR RIGHT: Two pals on the West Seattle boardwalk, an area that offers some of the best urban views over the water, Thor Radford, www.radfordphotography.com.

city in British Columbia, and its Asian population and influence give this city a unique urban flair. Stroll down Robson Street, explore Stanley Park, historic Gastown, Granville Island, and Canada Place with the CN Imax Theater. Head across to North Vancouver to explore Grouse Mountain and the Capilano Suspension Bridge. Vancouver is also reached by train (Amtrak Cascades) or seaplane. Vancouver unites urban excitement with outdoor adventure. Enjoy year-round outdoor activities on the local mountains, or give in to the lure of the ocean on a relaxing dinner cruise. Take in live theatre or savor culinary delights. For more information on *Spectacular by Nature* Vancouver, visit www.tourismvancouver.com.

Victoria is a sophisticated seaside city, the cultural hub for the islands, and the political center for the province. A city like no other, Victoria combines the formality of afternoon tea with the exhilaration of whale watching, the exquisite beauty of Butchart Gardens with awe-inspiring natural scenery. Victoria is well connected to mainland British Columbia and Washington State with regular service by vehicle and passenger ferries, airplanes and seaplanes. For more information visit www.tourismvictoria.com.

Full Day Tours – East

■ **Northwest Country:** Cross the floating Lake Washington bridges to the foothills of the Cascade Mountains to explore and taste the best of the Northwest. Experience historic Gilman Village, a charming shopping center in Issaquah. At Boehm's Edelweiss Chalet, taste a variety of hand-made confections, all faithfully reproduced according to the recipes of Austrian candy-maker Julius Boehm. Tours are available. Hedges Cellars is adjacent to Boehm's in Gilman Village. Enjoy a taste of their Red Mountain terroir wines Monday - Saturday.

Continue to Snoqualmie Falls. You may recognize the falls from the television series "Twin Peaks." The falls are 268 feet (80

meters) high ... that's 90 feet (27 meters) higher than Niagara! Nearby in North Bend are Factory Stores of America—open daily, motorcoach parking available. To see the region where television's "Northern Exposure" was filmed, continue east on I-90 to Roslyn, a quaint little town nestled in the foothills of the Cascades.

Or, head north to the Woodinville area, home of many of Washington's premium wine-tasting rooms, including Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery. Set on 87 acres (35 hectares) of garden grounds, this facility has taken its place among the classic wineries of the world, producing award-winning wines. Enjoy a tour that allows a romantic yet technologically accurate view of the art and science of wine-making, ending with a sampling of Chateau Ste. Michelle's claims to fame. You may decide to continue your winery explorations by visiting the Columbia Winery across the road.

For a microbrewery experience, try the Redhook Ale Brewery just next door. Tours are available, and there's a comfortable pub for that all-important taste test.

Molbak's Nursery and Greenhouse is just minutes away. Wander through the 28 greenhouses that contain 1,300 varieties of indoor plants. Or check out the nursery offering an array of trees, flowering shrubs, and ground covers. This complex is a delight for all gardeners, and guaranteed to leave you refreshed.

■ **East King County Loop Tours:** Just a bridge away from Seattle, five loop tours are available for your groups. Tour times range from four to eight hours. [F](#)

Full Day Tours – South

■ **A Day in Tacoma:** Just 45 minutes south of Seattle and 20 minutes south of Sea-Tac International Airport, Tacoma offers a wealth of museum and cultural attractions. Start your tour in the city center—the heart of Tacoma's growing "museum mecca."

The Washington State History Museum features interactive and multimedia exhibits, plus the largest collection of pioneer, Indian and Alaskan artifacts on the Pacific Coast. Group rates available. Adjacent is the 1911 Union Station, designed by the architects of New York's Grand Central Station; today it displays glass sculpture by renowned artist and Tacoma native Dale Chihuly. Free admission.

Opening in July 2002, the new Museum of Glass will be a spectacular third attraction, located across from the history museum and linked by a pedestrian Chihuly Bridge of Glass. The museum will feature a working "hot shop" where visitors can watch artists create glass sculptures, as well as browse through the many exhibits. The dramatic bridge will showcase Chihuly art worth \$12 million. Group rates available.

Pause for lunch at the Harmon Pub and Brewery, and sample wine at the Hoodspout



Winery tasting room next door. Browse the antique shops and boutiques along that block, then head for Antique Row on Broadway for more collectibles.

Visit the free Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum to see original letters and documents handwritten by some of history's most famous people. It provides an extraordinary history lesson with exhibits that rotate frequently. Across the street in Wright Park is the W. W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory, a 1908 Victorian glass marvel housing 200 exotic species of plants and colorful seasonal displays. Free admission.

Drive to Point Defiance Park to see Fort Nisqually and Camp 6 Logging Exhibit. The reconstructed fort recreates life in a Hudson Bay trading post, circa 1855, with docents in period garb. Camp 6 illustrates the history of steam logging in Washington from the 1880s to the 1940s when "loggers were boss and steam was king!" Free admission.

■ **Mount Rainier Loop:** Located 106 miles (170 km) southeast of Seattle, Mount Rainier dominates the skyline on clear days. Enroute from Seattle, stop at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park to see native animals roaming free in natural habitats. Take the one-hour tram ride to view moose, elk, caribou, bison, bighorn sheep, antelope and deer; then see predators such as grizzly bears, wolves and cougars in moat-separated habitats.

Continue to the Nisqually entrance of Mount Rainier National Park. Drive to Paradise, pausing at Longmire to see its small natural history museum. Paradise, perched at 5,400 feet (1,620 meters), offers unequalled views of Mount Rainier and the Nisqually Glacier. Facilities include a visitor center that features displays and a film presentation about the mountain. Visit the historic Paradise Inn with grand dining room, snack bar, cocktail lounge and gift shop. Both long and short hiking trails fan out from here.

After departing the park, pass through Enumclaw (home of the King County Fair) and the historic coal-mining town of Black Diamond on your way back to Seattle.

Note: This tour features spectacular scenery best seen from late spring to early fall. The road to Paradise is kept open year round with snowplows, but the facilities

there are open only mid-May through September. The amount of snowfall determines road accessibility and conditions throughout the park and surrounding area.

■ **Mount St. Helens:** "Nature's Institute of Higher Learning." Truly, no other classroom or university can display the primordial power of the 1980 eruption, its ensuing destruction or the enormity of regeneration two decades later. The incredible events leading to and after the eruption are recounted at world-class interpretive centers. Stories told by the people who lived, worked and played around Mount St. Helens propel your imagination beyond its usual boundaries. The opportunity to discover the evolution of our existence awaits you. It's a learning experience like no other on earth.

Mount St. Helens interpretive centers are located at Silver Lake, Hoffstadt Bluffs, Forest Learning Center, Coldwater Ridge and Johnston Ridge. Other major attractions at Mount St. Helens include an aerial tour by helicopter or Cessna airplane, guided motorcoach tour, road trip through the blast zone, self-guided discovery drive loop tour, giant screen film show of the eruption, a hike to the crater, and overnight in the blast zone. Surrounding area attractions include national forests, wilderness areas, fish hatcheries, Lewis River waterfalls, Native American living history programs, Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, Cedar Creek Grist Mill, Columbia River and Lake Sacajawea.

Full Day Tours – West

■ **Port Townsend and the Kitsap Peninsula:** Travel aboard a Washington State Ferry from downtown Seattle to Bainbridge Island, 35 minutes across Puget Sound with spectacular views of the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges. On Bainbridge Island you'll find unique shops, the Bainbridge Winery and the Bloedel Reserve, 150-acre (60 hectares) estate of second growth forest, gardens, ponds, meadows and wildlife habitat. Across Bainbridge head north toward Poulsbo, a picturesque Norwegian community on the shores of Liberty Bay noted for its antique shops, the Marine Science Center and Sluys famous bakery. On the way be sure to visit the Suquamish Museum and Old Man House

in Suquamish, gravesite of Chief Sealth, namesake of Seattle.

Cross the Hood Canal Floating Bridge and continue to Port Townsend. This entire town is a national historic landmark and is considered the best example of a Victorian seaport north of San Francisco. There are more than 70 old Victorian residences, buildings, forts, parks and monuments in this charming town. The Jefferson County Historic Museum in Old City Hall exhibits artifacts and hundreds of photos from Port Townsend's early days.

Port Townsend also hosts the Rhododendron Festival in May, a summer jazz festival and Centrum Music Series. Restaurant settings range from sidewalk cafes to formal Victorian dining rooms. Be sure to allow plenty of time to explore the town's shopping areas, where perfectly detailed and restored buildings house potters, painters, sculptors, weavers and writers. At historic Fort Warden State Park, visitors are treated to stunning views of Whidbey Island, the San Juan Islands, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Look closely—you may recognize locations from the hit movie, "An Officer and a Gentleman." Leaving Port Townsend, head south and east to Port Gamble.

Port Gamble is steeped in 1850s New England, with its characteristic architecture. This national historic site includes North America's oldest-continually-operating sawmill site and a company town; hiking





ABOVE: Meadow wildflowers in the foreground set off the snowy slopes of Mount Rainier. RIGHT: The Washington Coast looks wild and lonely, but is easily accessible, John Bolivar.

Say 'Seattle,' and different ideas spring to mind. There's the city that gave us Starbucks . . . but for some of us, Seattle is the rugged Northwest. We still get a kick out of crowd-pleasing Pike Place Market . . . but others envision a city of software millionaires (last year's billionaires) who mix fleece and Ferragamo.

*—Heidi Schuessler,
Travel Holiday Magazine*

options include the Dungeness and Gray Wolf Trails in the Olympic National Forest.

As you leave Sequim and continue west toward Port Angeles, be sure to include a visit to Hurricane Ridge (5,200 ft/1,585 meters), the crown of Olympic National Park. Marvel at spectacular scenery, stroll the short alpine trails with an interpretive ranger, view a 12-minute film at the Visitor Center. Enjoy an afternoon break in Port Angeles with possible stops at the Clallam County Museum or Port Angeles Fine Art Center. If time allows, you may want to extend your day tour to Lake Crescent, a glacier-carved lake only 15 miles (25 km) west of Port Angeles.

National Parks Sampler

A wealth of national and state parks, national forests and scenic areas plus the special Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument make Washington State a one-of-a-kind nature destination. From temperate rainforests, volcanic ruins and craggy mountain peaks to high desert terrain, Washington State truly has it all.

Four easy trips from Seattle:

■ **Mt. Rainier National Park:** Views of Mt. Rainier can be seen around the Puget Sound area. You probably noticed it as you landed at Sea-Tac International Airport (65 mi/105 km away). Affectionately called "The Mountain" by locals, Mt. Rainier towers 14,410 ft (4,392 meters) and is the fifth tallest mountain in America.

If you only have a day to explore Mt. Rainier, you can still get a good feel for the many aspects of the mountain. Start with a visit to the Longmire Museum and a walk down the self-guided half-mile (1km) Trail of the Shadows. Drive on to Paradise (5,430 ft/1,645 meters) where you have a 360-degree view of the area as well as exhibits on the park's flora, fauna, glaciers and geology and on-site park rangers, who can offer up-to-the-minute information on trail conditions.

Continuing up toward White River and Sunrise (6,435 ft/1,950 meters) the road winds through forests of cedar, fir and hemlock, with views of four dormant volcanoes including Mount Baker and Mount Adams. The Sunrise Visitors Center

features guided nature walks and viewing telescopes that bring the mountain's slopes and glaciers into sharp focus.

■ **North Cascades National Park:** Part of the Cascade Loop, the main highway is the only part of this park accessible by road. For the most dramatic views drive the road from east to west. The highway crosses two passes—Washington Pass and Rainy Pass. At Newhalem, the North Cascades National Park Visitor Center provides exhibits, maps and information about the park and permits for backcountry travel and camping. Overlooks above Ross and Diablo lakes are excellent vantage points for photographs of the lakes. To get out on the water, try Seattle City Light's Skagit Lake and Dam Tours. To take full advantage of this park we recommend experiencing the full Cascade Loop.

Return to Seattle by evening. This can be a self-drive experience or an escorted tour offered by local tour operators. Gray Line of Seattle will even drop off backpackers and pick them up a couple of days later.

OPTION: Overnight stays can be enjoyed at Paradise Inn or National Park Inn located inside Mount Rainier National Park. Camping is also a possibility at one of the many campsites located inside the park or in areas outside the park. Accommodations are also available in the surrounding communities.

■ **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument:** On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted with such force that it reduced the mountain by 1,313 ft. (400 meters) to its current 8,364-ft (2,549 meters) height. Today, much of the flora and fauna have returned although evidence of the mass destruction still exists.

The National Volcanic Monument is located 2½ hours southeast of Seattle. Five visitor centers are located inside the boundaries of the monument offering a variety of presentations and educational opportunities. For adventurers wishing to get a closer look, hiking trails are open and scenic helicopter tours are available. Return to Seattle in the evening.

■ **Olympic National Park:** Ninety miles (145 km) west of Seattle across Puget Sound is Olympic National Park, the 10th most popular in the USA. Easily reached by car

and ferry, the park offers towering peaks, lush rainforests (it's the only temperate rainforest in the continental USA) and a long, pristine shoreline. Stop at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center in Port Angeles, where park rangers are available to answer questions. On a clear day take the 17-mile (27 km) drive up Hurricane Ridge for spectacular views.

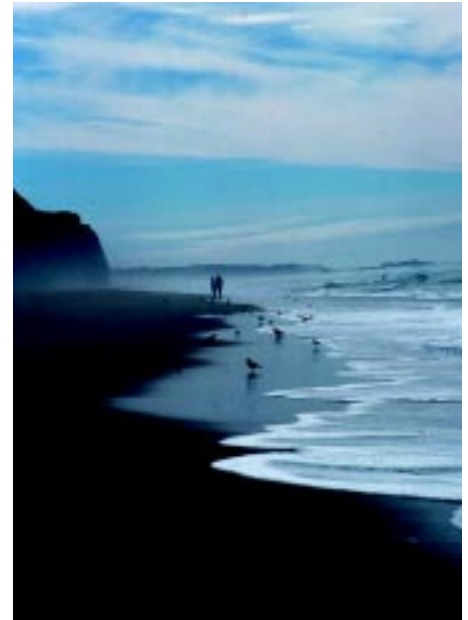
Return to Port Angeles and continue west to Lake Crescent, a deep, glacier-carved freshwater lake. A two to three hour drive away is the Hoh Rain Forest. With approximately 140 inches (3,555 millimeters) of rain a year, the feeling of nature as green, damp and big dominates. Check out the conifers, which grow over 195 feet (60 meters) tall. Some are 165 ft (50 meters) in diameter as well. And walk the Hall of Mosses Trail for a quick introduction to the rain forest ecosystem.

Continue to the coastline ... a pristine stretch that offers majestic cliffs and fabulous rock formations. From Ruby Beach to Kalaloch, paths lead down to six different beaches. The northern beaches are the places to see sea stacks (giant rocks). At low tide, discover amazing aspects of marine life in the tide pools. Return to Seattle in the evening.

OPTION: Overnight stays can be enjoyed at a lodge or campsites within the national park or at accommodations or campsites in the surrounding communities.

Regional Destinations

■ **Cascade Loop:** National Geographic Explorer calls the Cascade Loop "one of America's grandest, most spectacular drives." The 440-mile (704 km) loop winds through the heart of Washington State—encompassing the salty waters of Puget Sound, the lush foothills of the Cascade Mountains' western slopes, the glacier-clad peaks of North Cascades National Park, and the sun-drenched expanse of the Columbia River Valley. Not only scenic, the loop is also filled with recreational options. Millions of acres of hiking and biking trails, powder-laden ski hills and cross-country trails, lakes and rivers beckon to boaters, rafters and fishermen—and that's just the beginning. There is a wide range of accommodations from full-service resorts to rustic lodges, motels and bed & breakfasts.



■ **Wine Country:** Washington State, with over 160 wineries, is the second-largest producer of wines in the USA. Wineries are located in virtually every region of the state, but most of the wine grapes are actually grown in southeastern Washington in the Yakima, Walla Walla and Tri-Cities region. The rich sandy soil irrigated by water from the Columbia River and the long sunny days make this the ideal climate for wine grape production. The region is on the same latitude as the Burgundy and Bordeaux regions of France.

Washington State has become well known for excellent Chardonnay, Cabernet and Merlot wines. Tours and tastings are free and it is especially exciting to be there for the fall crush or the spring barrel tasting. Whether an afternoon tour of Seattle's eastside or a multi-day excursion across the mountains, no visit to the State of Washington is complete without a taste of Washington.

■ **Olympic Peninsula:** To the west is the town of Forks, with the Timber Museum chronicling the history of the logging industry in the development of the region. Along the coast are numerous wild and unpopulated beaches, including Ruby Beach and Kalaloch. Lake Quinault Lodge on the shores of Lake Quinault is at the edge of the rain forest and an ideal area to learn more about this eco-system, unique to the Pacific Northwest. Further south is the town of Ocean Shores with numerous lodging options from economy to luxurious. Its wide

RIGHT: Gerard Schwarz, conductor of the acclaimed and much-recorded Seattle Symphony, Dan Lamont. BELOW: Pacific Northwest Ballet artist Julie Tobiason in "Lambarena," Angela Sterling. Exquisite murrini bowl by glass artist Mel Munsen, Vince Klassen.

sandy beaches are ideal for walking, kite-flying or horseback riding. To make the trip complete, include a visit to Mt. Rainier before your return to Seattle.

■ **Portland, Oregon:** Past Mount St. Helens is the City of Portland (150 miles/240 km), the gateway to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Located at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, Portland is known as the Rose City. The International Rose Test Gardens are situated in the west hills overlooking downtown with Mt. Hood in the background. This is an attraction not to be missed. A perennially popular program is the



Portland Rose Festival and floral parade held each year in June. Other attractions include the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), the World Forestry Center, the new Classical Chinese Garden and the Portland Art Museum. There are numerous options for getting out on the water from dining excursions to multi-day cruises of the Columbia River.

Cultural Tourism

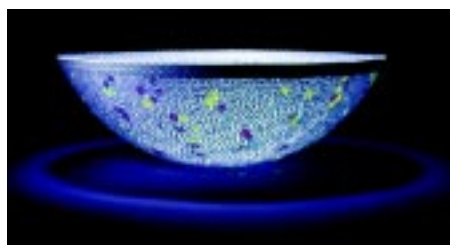
Today's traveler is looking for once-in-a-lifetime experiences. We can help you make a trip to Seattle exciting and rewarding, with memories that will last beyond the usual. As an innovative leader in the 21st century knowledge-based economy, Seattle is well positioned to offer stimulating and engaging experiences for travelers.

The arts can transcend language and be a portal for a wide range of interesting cultural experiences. With a \$1.2 billion investment in new cultural facilities and renovations over the past decade, it's no wonder that Seattle has emerged as a national and international destination for arts and culture. Well-known artists live here: Dale Chihuly, one of the world's foremost glass artists; "Ya Ya Sisterhood" writer Rebecca Wells; and opera diva Jane Eaglen are just a few of the many who contribute to the vitality of our region.

As that famous Seattle area-based software giant Microsoft asks: "Where do you want to go today?" Is it the Seattle Opera and a tour of the costume shop?

Perhaps an artist-guided tour of the First Thursday Gallery Walk? A behind-the-scenes view of the historic 5th Avenue Theatre, followed by a pre-play discussion with the director? Or maybe a great evening at Jazz Alley? How about a concert with the Seattle Symphony in the gleaming Benaroya Hall, followed by dinner at one of Seattle's famous restaurants? Or perhaps you want to explore some of the more cutting edge art and performance work that Seattle is also known for? Learn what it's like to be a dancer ... a writer ... a filmmaker ... a media producer. Maybe you would like to learn about our area's Pacific Rim people and cultures or our Native history, arts and culture. Got a group of engineers whom you'd like to inspire? We can introduce you to a design-team artist who helped transform a water treatment plant into a community park, bike trail and award-winning landscape artwork, only 20 minutes from downtown Seattle.

The Cultural Tourism program is a resource for travel professionals to connect with our diverse cultural community. We have contacts with hundreds of arts and cultural organizations, artists, historians, and cultural experts, and can help you develop ideas to match your group's interests and dreams with the people who can make it all happen. We are a liaison between the travel professional and the cultural community, ready to assist you in developing unique experiences for your clients. And, our comprehensive on-line calendar of events



now allows you to search our extensive database for arts and cultural activities months in advance, obtain detailed program descriptions, and review or download location maps. Visit www.seeseattle.org, and click on “events calendar.” 📅

Additional Ideas/Themes

Many special interest and educational experiences are available, and can be adapted for both individual and group travel. Ideas can be used for half-day, whole day, multiple days, or as mini-components of extended itineraries. 📅

■ **Adventure:** Nature walks, hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking, river rafting, fresh or saltwater fishing, mountain climbing, llama trekking, skiing or snowshoeing; these and more are available from just a few minutes to half a day away. Need to get outfitted? Start by visiting three of the premier names in outdoor wear and gear, C.C. Filson, Eddie Bauer and REI (whose flagship store in Seattle even offers visitors a 65 ft (20 meter) indoor climbing wall and a “rain room” to test outerwear).

■ **Aerospace:** Boeing’s first airplane was a seaplane that took off from Lake Union—only five minutes away from downtown Seattle. The Red Barn at the Museum of Flight, just south of downtown Seattle, was the original Boeing Airplane Factory. The museum today houses aircraft from the Wright Brothers to spaceships, and includes the original Air Force One used by three U.S. Presidents. Further afield in the city of Everett, 30 miles (48 km) north of Seattle, is the largest building in the world—assembly plant for Boeings 747, 767 and 777 airplanes.

■ **Art Galleries:** Over 190 galleries are located in the greater Seattle area, with many more throughout the state and region. Exhibits of every kind abound, including a full range of framed art, sculptures, blown glass, jewelry, contemporary animation, pottery, Native American collectibles, clocks, antiques, handcrafted furniture and much more. Participate in local “art walks;” create



programs around artist presentations, gallery visits and hands-on classes; hold a reception in an elegant gallery, surrounded by art.

■ **Breweries:** Seattle and Washington State are well known for boutique beers and quality microbreweries. Some offer tours and tastings, including Redhook Ale Brewery in Woodinville as well as the Pike Pub and Brewery and Pyramid Brewery and Alehouse in downtown Seattle. Beers can also be sampled at the Trolleyman Pub, Redhook Ale’s close-in location, Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant in Pacific Place, and Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery at Rainier Square. Located about one hour from Seattle, the Miller Brewing Company in Tumwater offers tours and tastings.

■ **Cruises:** Whether the destination is Alaska, the Pacific Northwest Triangle of Seattle/Victoria/Vancouver, the San Juan Islands, or anywhere around Puget Sound, there are opportunities to enjoy an overnight

ABOVE: The Museum of Flight offers eye-popping displays of aircraft, along with aviation history and plenty of hands-on learning opportunities, George White.

From its commuter ferries to the name of its baseball team (the Mariners), Seattle is defined by water through and through.

—Viva Hardigg,
National Geographic Traveler

RIGHT: The Golf Club at Newcastle is just one of the prime regional attractions for golfing enthusiasts, George White.

FAR RIGHT: Seattle's performing arts scene is innovative and professional. A scene from A Contemporary Theatre's 2001 production of "God of Vengeance," Chris Bennion.

cruise experience of 2–14 days. Consider the following:

- Catalyst Cruises (San Juans, British Columbia, Inside Passage)
- Fantasy Cruises and Tour (golf retreats, other chartered excursions)
- Cruise West (Alaska & Pacific Northwest)
- Holland America (Alaska & Pacific Northwest Triangle)
- Norwegian Caribbean Line (Alaska)
- PrivateBoatTours.com (Yacht overnights—San Juan Islands)
- Royal Caribbean (Pacific Northwest Triangle)

For information on day cruising by ferry, sailboat, yacht, sightseeing tours on water, please refer to the Activities & Attractions section of this guide.

■ **Culinary Exploration:** From Pacific Northwest cuisine to an extensive variety of ethnic specialties, local chefs are creative and skilled in delivering the magical combination of taste and presentation. Expand the gourmet experience in one or more of the following ways: Visit Pike Place Market with a local chef, then observe as your lunch is prepared. Seaplane to an island shore where you can gather clams and oysters which will be prepared as part of your next meal. Take a class in the use of fresh herbs. Visit a local produce farm. Pick berries. Attend a pre-scheduled or created-to-order wine and cheese tasting. Try a wine and chocolate tasting. Tour a local bakery, talk with the baker and taste a “goody.” Schedule an hors d’oeuvres “dine-around,” then end the evening with a great dessert.

■ **Gardens:** Do you love gardens? Seattle and the surrounding region have something for everyone. Why not start your experience with 60,000 poinsettias in December at Molbak's or February's Northwest Flower & Garden Show with 28 full-size gardens, over 400 exhibitors, more than 100 seminars and hands-on demonstrations, and top experts

and horticulturists from around the world? Springtime brings the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival and Weyerhaeuser's Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in full bloom. The Washington Park Arboretum and Bloedel Reserve are beautiful at any time of year. Enjoy parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, or the Tropical Rain Forest and the Rose Garden at the Woodland Park Zoo, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden. How about water gardens, a Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, or fields of lavender for the picking in mid-summer? Ann Lovejoy's Garden School, Elandan Gardens, Lakewold Gardens, and the internationally known Heronswood are also close by. Explore for a day, or perhaps an entire week.

■ **Glass Art:** Washington State is a mecca for glass artists. In fact, there are more hot shops in this region than anywhere else in the world, including Murano, Italy where the art of glass blowing began. The Pilchuck Glass School, founded in 1971 by legendary pioneer in the Studio Glass Movement, Dale Chihuly, and art patrons John and Anne Hauberg, is located about an hour north of Seattle. Each summer, students from over two dozen countries come to learn from the best and the brightest, as well as from each other. Become part of the glass experience by visiting local studios to watch artists in

action. View the displays in many of the area hotels and public buildings. Browse the many art galleries featuring works of local, national and international artists, and perhaps purchase one or more creations to enjoy at home.

Reflecting the importance of glass art, the Museum of Glass and the 500-foot long glass and steel pedestrian overpass, Chihuly Bridge of Glass, will open in Chihuly's hometown of Tacoma, approximately 40 minutes south of Seattle, in July 2002. The 75,000 square foot building will contain galleries, a 180-seat theater, a museum store, a cafe, and other public spaces. Visitors will be able to watch teams of artists in action as these creators bring their skill and passion to the highly choreographed, intricate and painstaking process of blowing glass.

■ **Golf:** Washington State is home to approximately 300 golf courses, with over 120 public courses located in Western Washington. Following our hosting of the PGA in 1998, the Seattle area golf scene has been undergoing major growth. In 2002, Sahalee Country Club, one of the area's top private courses, will host the NEC Invitational Tournament. Excellent golf and our highly cosmopolitan yet relaxed nightlife make Seattle a formidable contender for golf vacations. Courses are kept in condition for



year-round play, and offer challenges for every skill level. For starters, consider Druids Glen, Echo Falls, Gold Mountain, the Golf Club at Newcastle, McCormick Woods, Trophy Lake and Willows Run. Resort golf is also available. Call us for information on individual courses as well as resort play. ■

■ **Islands:** Some of the most beautiful islands to be found are located in Puget Sound and northward into Canada. From the central islands of Vashon, Bainbridge and Whidbey to the spectacular San Juan Islands which are known for their beauty, natural resources and living history, each island offers a different experience. Camp, hike, bicycle, kayak, sail, or watch for whales, seals, otters, eagles, blue heron, fox, rabbits, and other marine and wildlife. Visit a llama or alpaca farm, or explore a formal garden, dive into the world of sea anemones and octopi, or watch local artists at work. Dine on upscale cuisine or rub elbows with the locals at a pub. Interested in history? Several islands offer historic buildings, sites and landmarks dating back to the early 1800s. The larger islands can be reached by Washington State ferries or by scheduled or chartered planes or boats. Consider island hopping by seaplane for a special treat. Some of the smaller islands are more remote, and are accessible only by private craft.

■ **Marine Tours:** Nature-based activities in the region are abundant. Seattle-based adventures include The Seattle Aquarium and Hiram Chittenden Locks and Fish Ladder; the North Sound offers the Everett Everglades, the Northwest Stream Center, Jetty Island, scuba diving in Edmonds, the Tulalip Fish Hatchery, and whale watching; island destinations include Camp Casey and Admiralty Head Lighthouse (Whidbey Island), Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport and the Marine Science Center in Poulsbo. It's not difficult to put a two-day tour together—or a five-day tour!

■ **Museums:** The Seattle area is home to an excellent selection of art, historical, technical and special interest museums. Choose from American, Asian, African and European art, aviation from bi-planes to space capsules, historic naval ships and wooden vintage boats, state and regional history and

industry, Native American and Scandinavian contributions to the Pacific Northwest, children's interests and hands-on activities, rock and roll and other American music and memorabilia, historic trains, police exhibits, doll art, bonsai in woodland settings, and the newest nearby addition, the Museum of Glass which opens in 2002.

■ **Native American:** Learn about the cultural and historical heritage of the Pacific Northwest's early residents through visits to area museums, galleries and retail specialty stores, along with experiences like Tillicum Village's "Dance on the Wind" program, or by attending a special event or pow wow at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center. Some Northwest tribal groups will also welcome visitors to their reservations, offering the opportunity to meet with tribal members and perhaps experience a ceremony or other special event.



■ **Performing Arts:** The Puget Sound region ranks third behind New York City and Chicago in our number of professional theaters. World recognition is given to the Seattle Symphony with its over 75 recordings and 10 Grammy nominations, to the Seattle Opera for its Wagner productions, including the entire "Ring" cycle, and to the Pacific Northwest Ballet for its Balanchine works and annual acclaimed version of "The Nutcracker." The Seattle Fringe Festival is the oldest non-juried theater festival in the U.S., and draws young theater companies

from around the world during its 11-day duration. Add fifteen additional symphony orchestras, plus professional choruses, chamber orchestras, dance groups, traveling Broadway productions, and more than 80 clubs with live music for all ages and tastes.

■ **Technical Tours:** Seattle is a major port and gateway where nature, technology and lifestyle meet. It's no wonder that we attract technical study tours from around the world. Some of the most popular interests include agriculture, construction, wineries, fishing, shipping, e-commerce, manufacturing and distribution, behind-the-scenes retail, health care, waste disposal and recycling, employment practices, and retirement living.

■ **Whalewatching & Wildlife:** Whale watching is a popular activity in the Pacific Northwest, with the three local pods of orcas (currently 84) most often observed between May and September. Excursions are available from Everett, Anacortes, La Conner, Bellingham, San Juan and Orcas Islands and Sidney and Victoria B.C. Kayaking/whale watch expeditions are also available in the San Juans. In March/April, gray whales can often be seen in southwest Washington as they travel north to Alaska for the summer. Back on land, be sure to include Woodland Park Zoo, The Seattle Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park on the way to Mt. Rainier, and the Olympic Game Farm in Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula.

■ **Wineries:** As the second largest producer of wines in the U.S., with five distinct appellations (Puget Sound, Yakima Valley, Walla Walla Valley, Columbia Valley and Red Mountain) and 150 wineries, Washington State offers abundant opportunities to explore and taste. Twelve wineries with public tastings are located within 30 minutes to 1½ hours of downtown Seattle. Additional wineries within the same proximity are available by appointment only. Small companies offer wine tours around the state, and local retailers and individual wine specialists can arrange private wine classes, wine and cheese pairings, and other educational or social activities.